



KELEP Nema with his family pulling out the mosquito net where his mother was buried by debris from the landslide.

Elderly woman injured as landslide hits house

TWO FAMILIES of eight escaped death in a near fatal landslide caused by the recent continuous heavy down pour in Port Moresby last week.

An elderly woman was seriously injured in the landslide.

The home of an Eastern Highlands family for 32 years in Kipo settlement near East Boroko was destroyed by the landslide last week.

The house owner, Kelep Nema, revealed to this newspaper that they were all asleep when the disaster struck and were lucky to escape without fatalities.

At a glance

LANDSLIDE: Due to the continuous rains in Port Moresby a family residing at Kipo settlement in East Boroko escaped death in the early hours of Tuesday morning when the ground above their home gave way and crashed onto their house trapping a mother and her 5 month old baby and seriously injuring an elderly woman. **RESCUE:** With help from neighbours they managed to free the mother and her baby who sustained minor injuries and continued to locate the elderly woman who was buried beneath the debris. She sustained internal injuries and was taken to hospital.

ter struck and were lucky to escape without fatalities. "Because of the continuous rain we were chilling-

ly locked in the house not knowing what would happen in the early hours of the morning," he said.

Nema said by 3am the ground, metres above their house, broke loose and hit their house. "Some of us managed to escape but a woman with her five-month-old baby were trapped inside with an elderly mother buried under the debris," said Nema. "With help from neighbours, we freed the mother and the baby who sustained minor injuries and continued to locate another elderly woman who was buried beneath the debris. In the shivering cold we finally located the woman and used

iron bars and an axe to split open the collapsed and half buried building finally freeing her."

The elderly woman was taken to hospital with major internal injuries.

Nema said their personal belongings and property valued at K10,000 were destroyed, including school materials for his children who are in grade 10, 8 and 6 respectively. He thanked God for saving his family from the disaster, adding that his family are followers of the Foursquare Church.

Forum discusses methods to combat gender violence

BY NELLIE SETEPANO

THERE are various innovative projects making inroads in Papua New Guinea to curb the high rate of gender-based violence.

Some of these projects initiated by the government and non-government organisations were talked about at the women's forum last week.

These projects were the safe cities project in the National Capital District; Population Services International's counselling services for couples; Oxfam's community safe houses and Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation's meri safe places and meri safe bus to name a few.

Country representative for Population Services International Gabriel Ganci was one of the panellists in the discussion on "what innovative methods are NGOs, the private sector, donors and Government using to combat and prevent gender-based violence."

He said that PSI had so far counselled 500 couples, especially young people who were a few years into their marriages.

"Counselling involved discovering root causes of domestic problems and seeking preventative approaches as solutions," Mr Ganci said, adding the results had been quite positive for couples.

Another, Kamene Wauga with Oxfam, talked about repatriation of battered victims to another location for safety and further counselling, which had proven successful for that organisation.

Pastor Mike Field from Ginigoada Bisnis Development Foundation talked about the only women safe bus in Port Moresby that was serving women commuters, also proving a positive innovation for women and girls.

PMV owner asked to file official complaint

POLICE have asked a Port Moresby-based bus operator to write an official complaint about the K600 he claimed to have lost in takings after his vehicle was grounded last Thursday.

PMV owner-operator Thomas Akmat, who runs

seven buses in the city, had demanded the amount from traffic police at Four-Mile after they immobilised one of his buses by removing its battery at about 7am. He said daily earnings from one vehicle was K600.

In protest he was still

refusing yesterday to move the bus out of the Four-Mile bus stop. Mr Akmat and his wife said at close of business they would not get the battery back and not remove their bus until the police pay the K600 for Thursday's loss of business.

But police told *Post-Courier* yesterday that the duty officer responsible had immobilised the PMV bus because it was overloaded.

Mr Akmat said that the family hope to see NCD police boss Andy Bawa today to lay their complaint.



BUS owner Thomas Akmat

The bottom line Counselling involved discovering root causes of domestic problems and seeking preventative approaches as solutions.

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